

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/074,744

Applicant(s)

PADIDAM, MALLA

Examiner

Terry A. McKelvey

Art Unit

1636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the reply filed 9/24/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 8-10.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 2/13/02 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Art Unit: 1636

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Camille Jolly-Tornetta on 10/7/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A method to reduce transcriptional interference between two tandemly arranged gene expression cassettes in a host cell comprising introducing into the host cell a polynucleotide comprising a) a first gene expression cassette encoding a first polypeptide, b) a spacer polynucleotide, and c) a second gene expression cassette encoding a second polypeptide, whereby the first gene expression cassette and the second gene expression cassette are positioned in a tandem orientation and the spacer polynucleotide of b) is

Art Unit: 1636

positioned between the first expression cassette and the second expression cassette; and culturing the host cell under conditions, wherein the spacer polynucleotide of b) is ~~selected from the group consisting of (i) a polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, (ii) a polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, (iii) a polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, and (iv) a polynucleotide comprising [[a]] the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, [[.]]~~ whereby transcriptional interference between the first gene expression cassette and the second gene expression cassette is reduced and the first polypeptide and the second polypeptide are expressed.

Claims 2-7 (Canceled)

Claim 8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the host cell is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial, fungal, yeast, plant, animal and mammalian cell.

Claim 9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the plant cell is selected from the group consisting of an apple, *Arabidopsis*, bajra, banana, barley, bean, beet, blackgram, chickpea, chili, cucumber, eggplant, favabean, maize,

Art Unit: 1636

melon, millet, mungbean, oat, okra, *Panicum*, papaya, peanut, pea, pepper, pigeonpea, pineapple, *Phaseolus*, potato, pumpkin, rice, sorghum, soybean, squash, sugarcane, sugarbeet, sunflower, sweet potato, tea, tomato, tobacco, watermelon, and wheat cell.

Claim 10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the gene expression cassettes comprises a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of an antigen, an alpha-amylase, a phytase, a glucane, a xylase, an insect resistance, a nematode resistance, a fungus resistance, a bacterium resistance, a virus resistance, an abiotic stress resistance, a nutraceutical, a pharmaceutical, an amino acid content modifying, a herbicide resistance, a cold tolerance, a drought tolerance, a heat tolerance, and an antioxidant polypeptide.

Claims 11-14 (Canceled)

Conclusion

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547.

Art Unit: 1636

Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

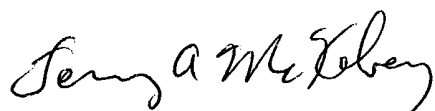
For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.

Any inquiry concerning rejections or objections in this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should

Art Unit: 1636

be directed to Terry A. McKelvey whose telephone number is (571) 272-0775. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, except for Wednesdays, from about 7:30 AM to about 6:00 PM. A phone message left at this number will be responded to as soon as possible (i.e., shortly after the examiner returns to his office).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Remy Yucel can be reached at (571) 272-0781.



Terry A. McKelvey, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1636

October 7, 2004